

CLAIMS:

1. A method of increasing insulin sensitivity in a mammalian patient by:  
administering to the patient an effective amount of a nitric oxide donor  
5 or nitric oxide agonist compound [which stimulates nitric oxide production in the liver].
2. The method according to claim [1] 9, wherein said administering step  
further includes orally administering the compound.
- 10 3. The method according to claim [1] 9, wherein said administering step  
further includes injecting the compound.
4. The method according to claim [1] 9, wherein said administering step  
further includes delivering the compound through a pump system directly into the  
15 portal vein.
5. A pharmaceutical composition useful to cause an increase in nitric  
oxide in the liver of a patient in need thereof, said composition comprising an  
[effective] amount of a nitric oxide donor compound, said amount being effective to  
20 cause an increase in [which stimulates] nitric oxide [production] in the liver, and a  
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 9.(New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound is a nitric  
oxide donor compound.  
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- 10.(New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound is a nitric  
oxide agonist compound.
- 11.(New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said administering step  
30 further includes orally administering the compound.

12.(New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said administering step further includes injecting the compound.

5 13.(New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said administering step further includes delivering the compound through a pump system directly into the portal vein.

14.(New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 5, wherein said donor is adapted to preferentially release nitric oxide in the liver.

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15 15.(New) A pharmaceutical composition useful in increasing insulin sensitivity in a mammalian patient, said composition comprising an effective amount of a nitric oxide agonist, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16 16.(New) A kit comprising:  
at least one of a nitric oxide donor or a nitric oxide agonist; and,  
instructions for the administration of said nitric oxide donor or nitric oxide agonist to ameliorate the symptoms of insulin resistance.

20 17.(New) The kit of claim 16, including a nitric oxide donor.

18.(New) The kit of claim 16, including a nitric oxide agonist.